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SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, considering the necessity for more industrial centres to be opened in Malabar district, will the Government forward the request of the Kozhikode Municipality with a strong recommendation to the Central Government to include it in the Second Five-Year Plan?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Industrial Estate in Palghat has been taken up only under the Second Five-Year Plan

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : In view of the fact that Palghat is at the southernmost end of the Malabar district and that Kozhikode is in the centre of that district and in view of the fact that there are no big industrial concerns at all in Malabar district, will the Government be kind enough to reconsider the question and establish an industrial estate—let it be even small—in Kozhikode?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Not only Kozhikode but places further north like Cannanore may wait for their chance.

Fall in price of pepper in Malabar

* 262 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to prevent the fall in price of pepper in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The fall in the price of pepper is due to the increased production of pepper in Indonesia and Sarawak. To face this competition and to help the producers and exporters of pepper, the Government of India have progressively reduced export duty on pepper until it was abolished
9-30 a.m. in September 1955. The Cashew and Pepper Export Promotion Council, Cochin, is also doing its best to promote the export of pepper by sending trade delegations to foreign countries to establish direct contacts with mercantile community there and by participating in international exhibitions by exhibiting pepper as one of the commodities in the trade fairs.

To prevent slump in Malabar pepper market, this Government also propose to recommend to the Government of India the following suggestions for their consideration :—

(i) Exploring new world markets.

(ii) Enforcement of Agmark grading on pepper.

(iii) Allotting export quotas of pepper to growers' co-operative societies for direct shipment to foreign countries.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Are the Government aware that, as a result of the fall in the price of pepper from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 600, so many pepper garden owners have been ruined? Will the Government be pleased to take steps to give them short-term or long-term loans to help them in pepper cultivation? May I know what steps the Government have taken to explore markets abroad and also to step up pepper consumption within the country?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Consumption of pepper by people in our country rests with the people themselves. I do not know what connection there is between giving loans and subsidies to pepper-growers and the price of pepper. Perhaps, if more pepper is grown, the price may come down. But I may tell the hon. Member the present situation. As a result of keen demand from overseas buyers reflecting uncertainties over the Suez Canal situation, the price of pepper shot up recently by over 10 per cent in the Cochin market. Trade circles anticipate improved conditions in the hill produce market to continue in view of the U.S. demand for pepper possibly for stock-piling.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : What is the quantity of export from our State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Government organize wholesale co-operative stores for the purchase and sale of pepper at a floor price to be fixed by the Government so as to prevent a fall in price?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : As to what the Government should do, I would like to have notice. But the hon. Member also may take steps to organize societies and Government will extend all facilities.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : There are two aspects to this question. One is the need for the exploration of foreign markets and it has been said that the Government are already attending to it. The other aspect is that, in spite of the good price that pepper fetches, poor growers are not getting the benefit of it. The fact is that usurers and others approach them and take their pepper garden on lease at the beginning of the season when the peppervines begin to shoot. Pepper growers are poor and hence there is need for giving them some aid. The aid may be in the form of starting co-operative marketing societies.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have already answered that the Government will extend necessary facilities in the matter of organisation of co-operative marketing societies.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions 263 and 264 may be taken together.

Starting an Industrial School at Cannanore

* 263 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to unstarred question No. 732 on 22nd March 1956—

(*a*) the amount sanctioned by the Government for starting an Industrial School at Cannanore; and

(*b*) when the school will be started?